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Page 2Amendments to the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c):

1. (Currently amended) A ~~field-installable fusion-spliced~~ fiber optic connector kit comprising:

~~a ferrule block subassembly comprising:~~

a fiber optic stub;

a ferrule, the ferrule having a longitudinal bore therethrough, wherein the fiber optic stub is held in the longitudinal bore and an end of the fiber optic stub extends beyond the ferrule; and

~~a disposable ferrule handling block, the disposable ferrule handling block adapted for holding for handling the ferrule during an assembly process for a fiber optic connector, and connector assembly;~~

~~a splice cover handling block subassembly comprising:~~

a connector housing for receiving the ferrule therein;

a trigger engaged with the connector housing;

a crimp body;

a spring;

a splice cover, the splice cover having a first end and a second end and a longitudinal passage extending from the first end to the second for housing a fusion splice of the fiber optic stub; and

~~a disposable splice cover handling block, wherein the disposable splice cover handling block is adapted for holding for handling the crimp body, the spring, and the splice cover during the assembly process.~~ connector assembly; and

wherein the connector is a fusion splice connector;

wherein the ferrule handling block is used to assemble the connector and is not part of the connector as assembled; and

wherein the splice cover handling block is used to assemble the connector and is not part of the connector as assembled.

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2. (Currently amended) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the disposable splice cover handling block having a first end and a second end, the first end of the disposable splice cover handling block having a plurality of resilient fingers that act as a stop for the second end of the splice cover.
3. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the ferrule having an outer diameter of about 1.25 millimeters.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently amended) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, further comprising a container for housing and protecting the ferrule handling block subassembly prior to the assembly process. the ferrule and the fiber optic stub together as a subassembly.
7. (Currently amended) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the ferrule being held by a first end of the disposable ferrule handling block so that the fiber optic stub extends therefrom.
8. (Previously presented) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the splice cover having at least one aperture in communication with the longitudinal passageway.
9. (Previously presented) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the fiber optic connector being connected to at least one optical fiber of a fiber optic cable.
- 10-28. (Canceled).